

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: HAMPTON (in city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	3/1/73

1. NAME

COMMON:	CHESTERVILLE PLANTATION	CHESTERVILLE SITE (preferred)
AND/OR HISTORIC:	CHESTERVILLE PLANTATION	

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Langley Air Force Base, Research Center			
CITY OR TOWN: Hampton (Thomas N. Downing, First District Congressman)			
STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: (in city)	CODE 650

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: National Aeronautics and Space Administration		
Frank Farmer, President, LRC Historical and Archaeological Society		
STREET AND NUMBER: Mail Stop 419, Langley Research Center		
CITY OR TOWN: Hampton	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 23365 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Clerk's Office		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Hampton	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey		
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission		
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building		
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: VIRGINIA	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
CITY: HAMPTON (in city)		

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

One known photograph taken prior to Chesterville's destruction shows a two-story house set on a high basement, with a three-bay gable end front, and stuccoed brick walls. The first floor incorporates an open arcade with unornamented round-headed arches making the building quite similar in appearance to the Fairfax County Court House of 1800. Late-nineteenth century sawn-work railings are set in the two side arches. The building's somewhat shallow gable is composed of an open tympanum of wood clapboards with simple cornice and cornice returns, and appears to be a mid to late-nineteenth century alteration. The six-over-six sash in both the first and second floor windows appear to be early. There is a window in the center bay of the first floor, and although the photograph is dim, the entrance appears to be in the right first floor bay. There is little fabric evident in the photograph that might date from the colonial period, although the original portion is believed to have been built circa 1771. The house may have undergone more than one major remodelling, the earliest perhaps occurring in the first decade of the nineteenth century.

At present, the site includes the following known historical archaeological features: the brick ruins of the mansion, in some places 4' high, surrounded by a chain link fence, the ruins of a building with a ballast stone foundation 100' to the north, the foundation of a brick kiln 400' to the east, cemetery about 1000' to the west, and scattered evidence of seventeenth century occupation.

NASA has constructed a concrete test track between the mansion foundation and the ballast stone foundation and about 2000' to the south, a moon lander test platform was constructed but will no longer be used (possibly it will be removed in the near future).

WMK

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☒ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century | ☒ 17th Century | ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>ARCHAEOLOGY</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A large portion of the land later incorporated in "Chesterville" Plantation was patented in 1619 by John Leyden, early Jamestown settler and planter. Two hundred and four acres of the property patented by Leyden were purchased in 1692 by Thomas Wythe, Burgess for Elizabeth City County and great-grandfather of George Wythe, signer of the Declaration of Independence, prominent legal educator, and "Father of American Law." During the early Wythe ownership, the boundaries of the plantation were extended until it encompassed over 750 acres. In 1755 George Wythe, inherited the property believed to have been his birthplace, at the death of his brother, and it was his primary place of residence until 1775. In 1771 he began building the mansion, the remains of which remain at the site, and in 1781 was calling the property "Chesterville." Wythe continued to operate the property as a plantation until 1792, and the plantation finally passed from the hands of the Wythe family in 1802. The mansion was destroyed by fire in 1911. Two parcels of land including a large segment of "Chesterville" Plantation were acquired by NASA in 1950.

A thorough archaeological excavation at the Chesterville site will reveal the intact foundation and cellar of the Wythe mansion, circa 1771, which can be stabilized for public view. Unmarked graves in the cemetery can be located archaeologically and marked. The ballast stone foundation cellar can be excavated to determine type of architecture and period of construction, occupation and cause of destruction. Various sites of known seventeenth century occupation can be investigated archaeologically probably revealing the Leyden homesite, and perhaps the Thomas Wythe early settlement. Visible evidence of the brick kiln area shows that the feature is largely intact and its entire plan could be learned by excavation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files of LRC Historical and Archaeological Society, Hampton, Virginia.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 06' 27"	76° 23' 30"				
NE	37° 06' 27"	76° 23' 04"				
SE	37° 06' 09"	76° 23' 04"				
SW	37° 06' 09"	76° 23' 30"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 30 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff		DATE June, 1972
ORGANIZATION Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission		
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building		
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE Virginia	CODE 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name _____

James W. Moody, Jr., Director

Title Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date 6/20/72

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date 3/1/73

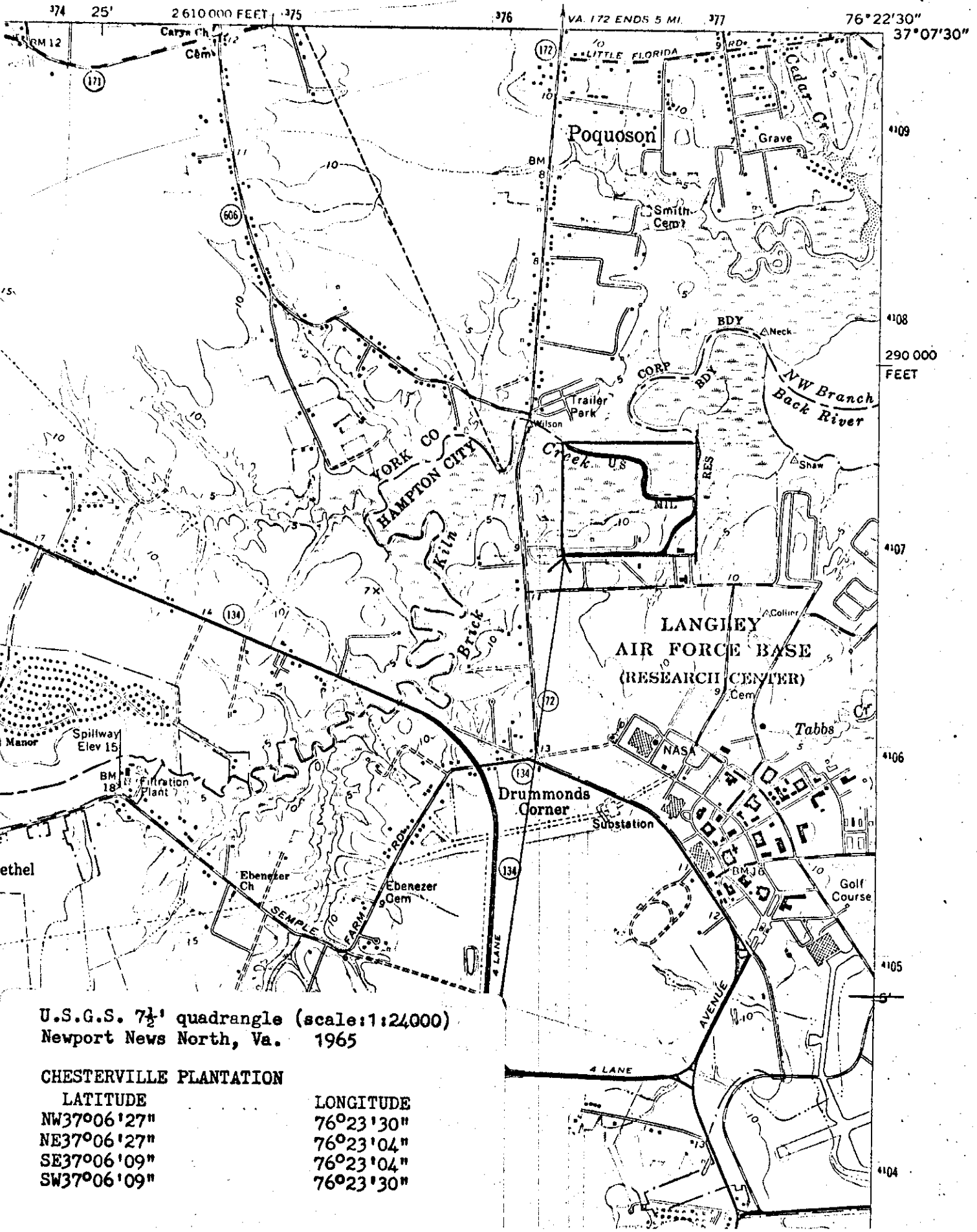
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

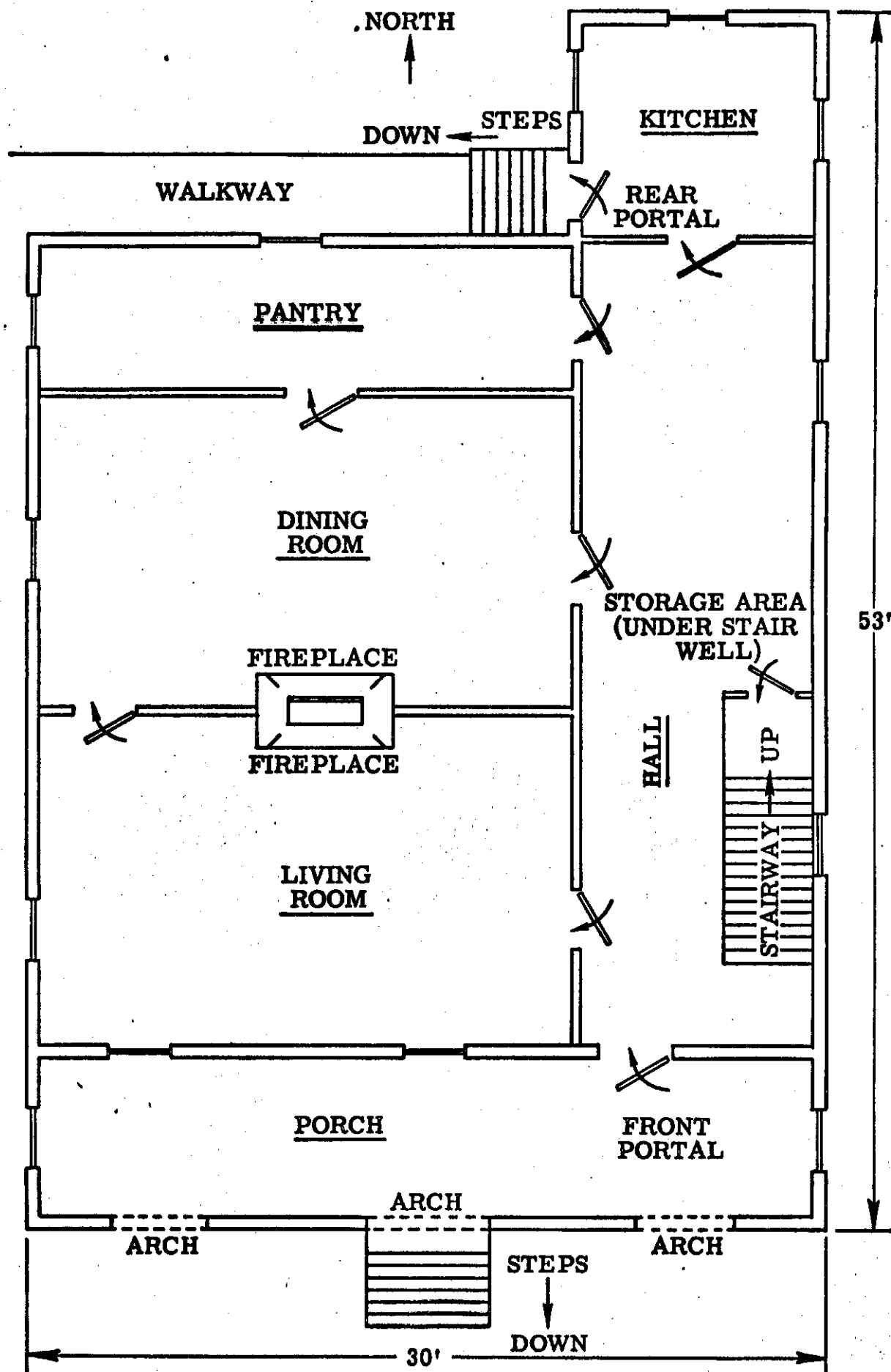
NEWPORT NEWS NORTH QUADRANGLE VIRGINIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

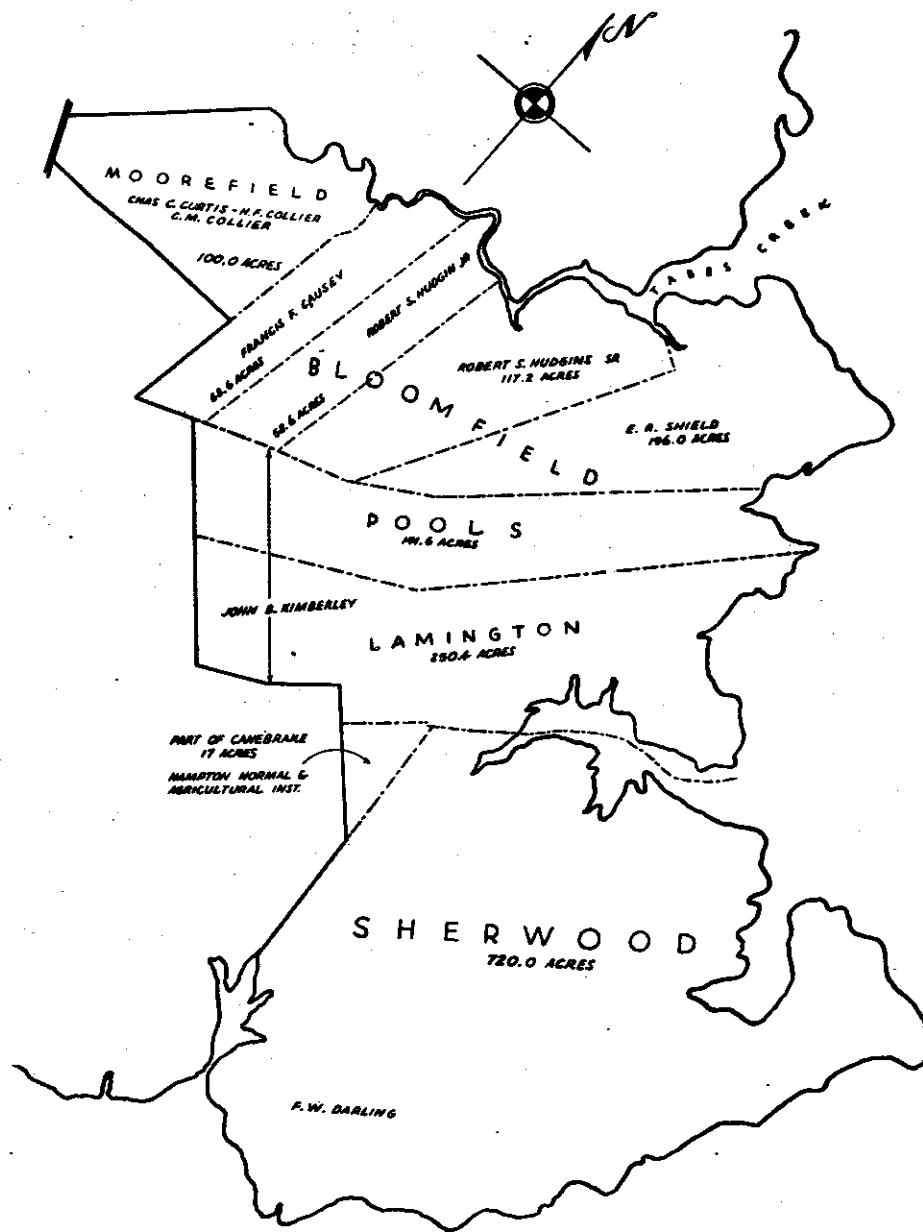
SW/4 HAMPTON 15' QUADRANGLE

5758 III NE
(POQUOSON EAST)





APPROXIMATE MAIN FLOOR PLAN OF BRICK "CHESTERVILLE" PLANTATION HOUSE (CIRCA 1910)

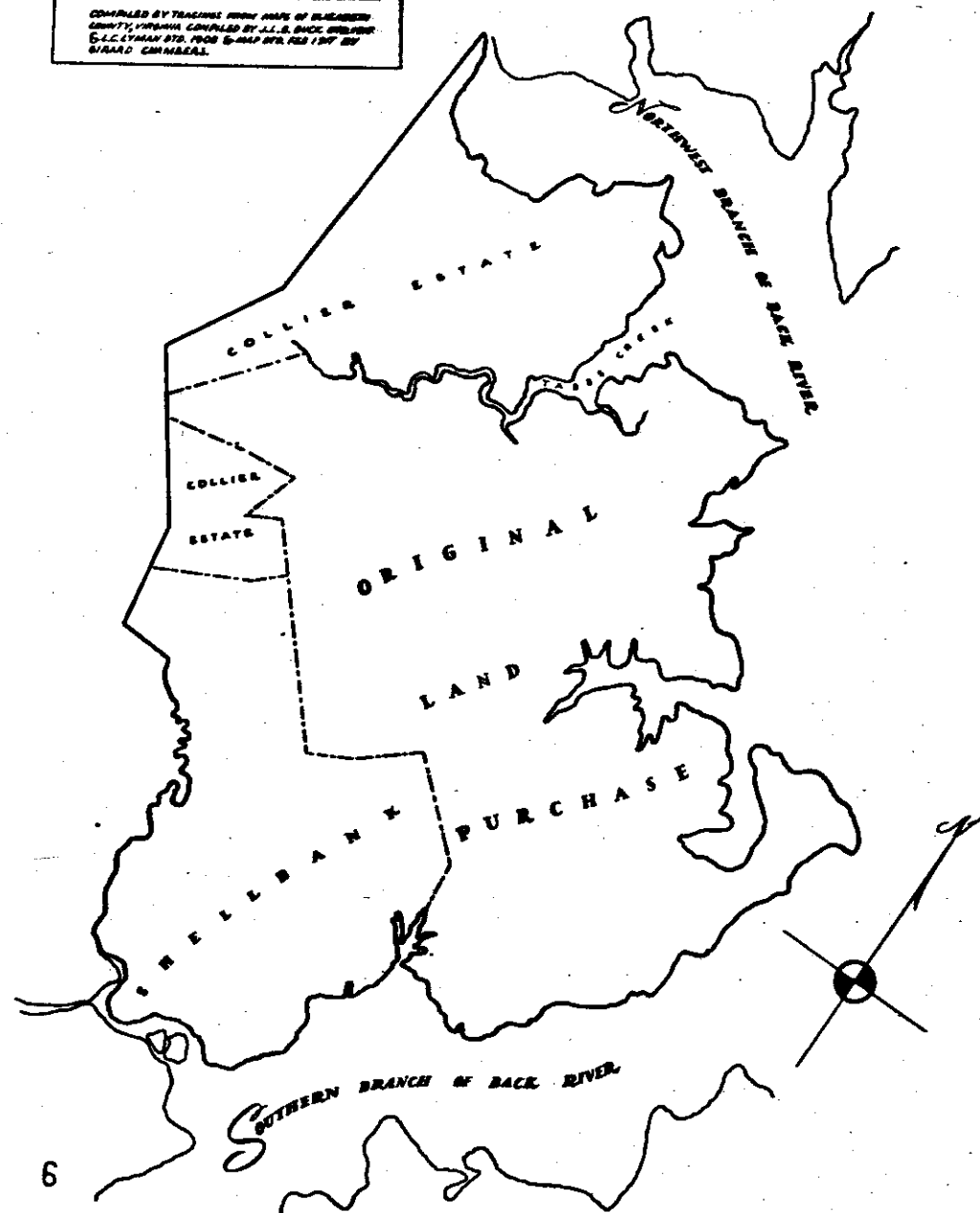


MAP COMPILED FROM COPY OF PLAT MADE BY
GERALD CHAMBERS DATED 30 DEC 1916 WHICH
ACCOMPANIED DEED - TOTAL ACREAGE 1659.4

Samuel Pierpont Langley's name and reputation were perpetuated when the government acquired this real estate on 30 December 1916 for \$290,000. The several estates which comprised the then-untitled facility of 1,659 acres were themselves historically significant. In 1916 the base was known as "Aviation Experimental Station and Proving Grounds." The January 15, 1917 issue of the magazine Aviation announced that the station would be known as Langley Field.

LANGLEY FIELD

COMPILED BY TREASURY FROM MAPS OF BLAUNTSVILLE
COUNTY, VIRGINIA. COMPILED BY J.L.S. BUCK, DISTRICT
ENGINEER, 1908. 6-10-1917 BY
RICHARD CANNIBELL.



Three additional estates, two island ranges (Plum Tree and Mulberry), and a dozen other land acquisitions have been added to the Langley complex over the years. Today the base has (as in the words of a popular song of a few seasons back) "gone about as far as it can go."